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## GRUESOME SPECTACLE MEETS GAZE OF HORRIFIED WIFE

### Mrs. Grace Pascoe Returns Home to Find Husband With Face Torn By Self-Inflicted Wound; Sudden Tragedy Bursts Upon Lomita Household

Lomita residents were shocked Monday to learn of the attempted suicide of James Stanley Pascoe, 49, who has been taken to the county hospital in a serious condition and may die from his self-inflicted wound.

Pascoe was found sitting erect in a chair in the living room at his home, 2512 Cypress street, about 6 o'clock Monday afternoon, holding a blood-soaked towel to his head. Bloody towels in the sink and an apparent attempt to wipe up the blood from the hallway, where the act is believed to have been committed, testified to the amazing fortitude of the man which kept him conscious for hours after the deed had been committed.

Pascoe had used a shotgun in his effort to take his own life. The shot struck him on the left side of the head, his cheek, one eye, a portion of his forehead being torn away, leaving the brain exposed.

The exact time of the affair could not be determined, but it is believed that the tragedy occurred sometime during the time when he was found by his wife, Mrs. Grace Pascoe, brother Ed Hayway, and Constable Charles R. Taber. It is believed to have occurred some time during Sunday night or early Monday morning.

A note addressed to his wife, and a holographic will leaving all his possessions to Mrs. Pascoe, indicated that the attempted suicide had been premeditated for at least several hours.

The note and will were found torn to small pieces, in an incinerator in the back yard but were placed together so that the contents were made known.

Both documents were brief. That addressed to his wife read as follows: "Sunday, July 29, Grace: When you get this I will very likely be out of the picture. Am leaving everything to you. I want no funeral services of any kind. Just cremated and the ashes thrown to the winds. Stanley." The will read, "Lomita, Calif., Sunday, July 29, 1934. To whom it may concern: I hereby will all of my possessions to Grace Pascoe, J. S. Pascoe."

Blood stains leading to the incinerator showed that Pascoe had made his way there after he had been wounded.

On Saturday night Mr. and Mrs. Pascoe, with members of his family, had attended choir practice at a church in Los Angeles. On their return home the party stopped at a store to buy ice cream and spent some time in a pleasant family party where Pascoe was said by his wife to have been in good spirits and the life of the party.

When Mr. and Mrs. Pascoe arose on Sunday morning, they made preparations to go to Los Angeles, where they were to have dinner with friends. After breakfast, Mrs. Pascoe mentioned that she had an errand to the home of Pascoe's mother, who resides at 25027 Oak street, to take over a parcel of meat which she had kept overnight in her refrigerator. On her return, as she entered the kitchen, she told officers that she found Pascoe standing in the middle of the room, and that without warning he had seized her with both hands around her neck and choked her severely. She began to cry and Pascoe released her and left the room, returning in a few minutes with a bottle of beer in each hand. As he passed her she upbraided him for his unwarranted treatment, and he then struck her on the head with a bottle and knocked her unconscious.

Continuing her account to the officers, called to investigate the case, Mrs. Pascoe stated that during the time that she was unconscious, and for several minutes afterward, Pascoe had rained kicks and blows upon her so that her body was covered with bruises, her nose was broken and one eye was badly injured.

As soon as she could make her escape, she ran out of the house and went to the home of the elder Mrs. Pascoe, where she told her story. Accompanied by Pascoe's brother, William, she returned to her home to get some clothes, as she was wearing a pajama suit which she had donned to do her work before getting ready to go to Los Angeles.

While she was in the house getting her clothes, Pascoe is said to have threatened her life. Mrs. Pascoe left immediately and went to the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Harvey, 1807

## Churchmen Meet; Launch Drive To Clean Up Movies

### Dr. Geo. P. Shidler of Torrance Heads Southbay Organization; Plans Told

Prominent leaders of Protestant churches in the Southbay district assembled at the Methodist Episcopal church at Redondo Beach last Friday evening and launched a movement to: (1) clean up the movies, (2) remove obscene magazines from news stands, (3) correct other influences which tend to break down the moral standards of young people. An organization known as the Amphictyonic Council was perfected and Dr. George P. Shidler of Torrance was chosen president. Charles Pierpont, cashier of the Bank of America at Redondo acted as chairman. Rev. Doty of the Redondo Beach Baptist church was elected secretary.

First action of the new organization was to join with leaders in the Catholic church for purging the movie theatres of objectionable "sex" films and gangster pictures. A three-point attack will be made against movie producers, including: (1) elimination of group bookings whereby exhibitors are forced to buy objectionable films in order to get other types; (2) censorship to be based on whether the picture decreased or increased respect for the Ten Commandments and the Christian conception of the marriage ceremony; (3) licensing of directors and actors, who will be required to give evidence of their capability, training and moral standards. This latter requirement will be a protection to worthy members of the profession, Dr. Shidler points out.

The Amphictyonic Council will meet again in three months, according to Dr. Shidler, when it will take up a report of Rev. Parlor for removing obscene literature and magazines from news stands.

### Will Ask State Legislature to Cancel Tax Sales

Wholesale Auction of Property in County Prevented If Bill Enacted

To prevent the wholesale auction of parcels of land owned in this community and throughout the county by taxpayers who are delinquent, County Auditor H. A. Payne has stated that he will ask the next session of the state legislature to cancel the sales for 1935 which are normally held in June.

The legislature had previously enacted a law which prevented these sales in 1933 and 1934 but it has expired. Several other bills to rescue the delinquent taxpayers will be introduced by Payne.

He will ask that the ten-payment plan for delinquent taxes be invoked again. This system prevented the loss of thousands of parcels to taxpayers. Under the ten-payment plan delinquent taxes may be paid over a ten-year period in small installments. In connection with this Auditor Payne stated, "Any person who failed to keep up his installments after starting the ten-payment plan last year would be given credit on the new plan if he participated in it."

Another "breather" for the taxpayer which Payne will propose will be in the form of an act to do away with tax penalties and interest when the property owner is delinquent. He suggests that property could be redeemed by paying 7 per cent interest since July 1, 1934, only, besides the taxes.

The acts which Payne has planned are being worked into shape by the county counsel's office and are to be presented to the board of supervisors for endorsement before going to the legislature.

### New Treasurer For Tenth District

Mrs. L. S. Rounsaville, president of Los Angeles Tenth District Parent Teachers Association, announces the election of a new treasurer, Mrs. Virgil Frampton, who will succeed Mrs. Reis. Mrs. Reis, who was elected at the May convention, resigned because Mr. Reis' business necessitated their moving to Arizona.

### Construction On Parker Dam May Be Under Way Within Thirty Days

That actual construction of Parker Dam, important unit of the Colorado River Aqueduct, may be under way within thirty days was indicated following the opening of bids last Thursday on the building of this structure. Bids were opened at the Los Angeles office of the United States reclamation bureau, under whose direction the dam is to be erected.

Six Companies, Inc., the construction firm which is now building Boulder Dam for the federal government, submitted the lowest total bid for the dam and the diversion tunnels which will bypass the waters of the Colorado river while the job is under way. Six Companies' bid totaled \$4,289,834, including \$1,100,841 for the tunnels and \$3,188,993 for the dam itself.

Parker dam is one of the main units of the great Colorado river aqueduct now being constructed by the Metropolitan water district of Southern California to supply water to the 13 cities in the district. Aqueduct water will be taken from the river behind Parker dam, and the United States government will be paid the construction costs by the water district.

The dam will be of concrete arch design, 800 feet long across its crest, and 315 feet high from bedrock. Its maximum thickness will be 100 feet. The structure will be located on the Colorado river, approximately 150 miles downstream from Boulder dam. It will be used primarily for diversion and regulation rather than storage. It will raise the level of the river approximately 80 feet. The reservoir to be formed will be approximately 50 miles long, extending upstream almost as far as the city of Needles. The reservoir capacity will be 717,000 acre feet. Construction of Parker dam is being launched now, rather than

## Governor Invited to Speak at Park Dedication Aug. 19

Governor Frank F. Merriam has been invited to speak at the dedication of the Torrance municipal park, Sunday, August 19, it was stated today by the joint city council-chamber of commerce committee in charge of arrangements for the gala celebration.

Another highlight in the afternoon and evening program, which will be packed with entertainment, is the old-fashioned ice cream and cake social which will be served by the ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary from 2 to 4 p. m. Auxiliary members were busy this week making plans for serving over a thousand guests. As the social will be partially financed by Chamber of Commerce funds, it will be possible to get "more than your money's worth" in ice cream, cake and coffee, a member of the committee stated. The auxiliary ladies will dress in Colonial costumes and will act as hostesses at the park opening. Huge ice cream cones will be served to the children.

During the ice cream social from 3 to 4 p. m. a concert will be given by the C. H. Cleveland's Harbor District Boys' Band of San Pedro, composed of over 60 musicians. A thrilling baseball game between employees of the Columbia Steel and the Southern California teams also is planned for the afternoon.

The dedicatory program is scheduled from 4 to 5 p. m. Mayor Scott Ludlow will act as chairman, introducing Governor Merriam, who will formally dedicate the park. In the event Governor Merriam cannot be present, some other outstanding Californian will give the principal address.

Work of completing the band stand and installation of lights is being pushed in preparation for the opening. This week the city council also appropriated \$200 for the construction of permanent refreshment quarters, and everything promises to be in tip-top shape for the formal opening August 19, park commissioner W. H. Tolson stated.

## Parke Identifies Suspect At Show-Up As Palos Verdes Bandit

With the arrest in Los Angeles, last week, of four men and two women, alleged to have kidnaped and robbed John Jeshke, former chauffeur of the late Lon Chaney, and Jeshke's bride of two weeks, officers of the sheriff's detail who were working on the hold-ups perpetrated in the Palos Verdes hills recently believe that these crimes have been solved.

The men are Jerry Dorsey, Cyril Russell, Lynn Parker, his wife, Mrs. Joy Parker, and Mrs. Ida Britton, wife of Floyd C. Britton, said to be the brains of the gang, who has not been apprehended.

Two others, Rouland W. Mikesell, 22, 1424 South Los Angeles street, and Allen Cardoza, 22, of Delano, who are believed to be members of the same band, which is said to number ten in all, were arrested Monday near Newhall, where it is alleged they had seized a truckload of eggs near the Newhall tunnel and were holding the driver until the eggs could be sold in Los Angeles.

The party which engineered the alleged kidnaping of Jeshke and his bride are said to have held them captive in the High Sierras for two weeks and then released them when it was found that they did not possess a great amount of ready cash.

On Tuesday night, William Parke, 1819 Amanola avenue, who with Miss Guy, 1023 Amanola, was taken captive on Sunday night, July 22, and held for several hours in custody of part of a group of bandits while two others mounted Parke's motorcycle and rode away, attended a "show-up" in Los Angeles of the suspects and identified one of the men as being in the party. The man was wearing Parke's leather coat, taken from him at the time of the alleged hold-up. Yesterday Miss Guy and Parke appeared before the grand jury to give their testimony in regard to the affair in which they were victims.

The same group is said to have perpetrated a hold-up and assault in the Baldwin hills some time ago, in which a young man and a girl were victims. These also are said to have identified their attackers.

### Wiener Bake Is Planned Aug. 10

Miss Josephine Odell, playground director, announces a wiener bake to be held on Friday evening, August 10. All children who wish to participate must pay a dime to Miss Odell or any of the playground supervisors, on or before Wednesday, August 8, so that there will be plenty of time to buy the necessary supplies.

Last Thursday 132 children enjoyed a beach party. Attendance at the playgrounds and recreation center is very gratifying to those in charge as a large number of young people are taking advantage of the amusements offered.

### Flurry of Interest In Local Oil Field

According to Jack Willacy, former Lomita man, now residing in Los Angeles, who paid a visit to this section last week-end, considerable interest is being shown by oil men in the Torrance-Lomita field. Several parties in that section have been approached with leasing propositions, but whether any leases have been made is not stated. The flurry is due, said Mr. Willacy, to the increase in quota allowances recently put in effect, and while no new drilling is contemplated, some of the old wells now inactive, are to be cleaned out and put on production.

### Purse Stolen

Miss Ida Grant, of the Modern Beauty Shop, reported to police that her purse, containing \$2 and other articles, had been stolen from the shop some time Monday.

## Urge Steel For Schools Repair Be Bought Here

### City Council and Chamber of Commerce in Effort To Help Local Firms

A strong resolution requesting that reinforcing steel bars to be used in repairing Torrance public schools be purchased from the Soule Steel Company of this city was adopted unanimously by the Torrance city council Tuesday night. It was pointed out in the resolution that the Soule Steel is admirably equipped to fabricate the material and that inasmuch as the Soule would buy its steel from the Columbia Steel Company, the placing of the order with the local concern would mean additional employment for Torrance workmen in two of its important industries.

The fact that Torrance taxpayers contribute substantial sums of money each year to the school fund in excess of the cost of operation of local schools was also stressed. Copies of the resolution were ordered dispatched to the business manager of the Los Angeles city board of education, the R. E. Campbell Construction Company, who were awarded the contract for the work, and the Soule Steel Company. A similar communication was also sent to the interested parties by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

### Construction Co. Moves Offices To Plant Location

The Austin Company of California, construction engineers, who will have charge of the construction of the Hughes-Mitchell plant on South Normandie, have moved two office buildings on to the property, which indicates that work on the new million dollar oil refining plant will start immediately.

Yesterday a crew from the Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light were erecting lines for lighting, but no one could be found in charge of the Austin Company offices.

According to previous announcements the Hughes-Mitchell Company expects to have their plant in operation by January 1, and the speed with which the construction company is moving to start proceedings would indicate that their plans will be realized.

### Ex-Steel Worker Tried Here Friday On False Pretense

William G. Snyder, former employee of the U. S. Steel Company, will be tried in the municipal court here tomorrow on a charge of obtaining money under false pretense, preferred by Mrs. H. D. Ballinger, a Los Angeles school teacher.

Snyder is said to have represented to Mrs. Ballinger that his wife was ill and in need of an immediate operation to save her life, on the strength of which representations Mrs. Ballinger advanced him \$108. According to the allegations set out in the complaint, Snyder's wife was not in need of such surgical treatment, had not been in a hospital and did not enter one for an operation.

Because Judge Charles T. Rippey was called upon to issue the complaint, he will be disqualified to act as judge in the matter and Justice of the Peace Frank Curral, of Gardena township, will sit in his place. A jury trial will be held, starting at 10 o'clock in the Torrance city hall.

Snyder is said to have gotten in touch with Mr. and Mrs. Ballinger through the compilation of a book, "The Iron Monster," which relates his experiences as a steel worker, and which he is said to have employed Ballinger to write for him.

### United Concrete Has Low Bid On Ballona Conduit

The United Concrete Pipe Company of Torrance submitted the lowest bid to the board of supervisors this week for construction work on the Ballona creek conduit from Redondo boulevard to La Brea avenue.

The local company's bid for construction of the conduit which would be 1300 feet in length, 19 feet deep and 40 feet wide, was \$39,319. Award of the contract is delayed until county officials determine whether there is enough money set aside for this project to put a cover on the conduit. The preliminary budget allows \$45,000 for the project.

Bids for the steel and cement work were also received. There were nine identical bids, all \$21,421 for the steel and \$14,700 for the concrete.

### PURSE STOLEN

Miss Ida Grant, of the Modern Beauty Shop, reported to police that her purse, containing \$2 and other articles, had been stolen from the shop some time Monday.

## SHOW DOWN ON WATER DEAL IS SCHEDULED FOR TONIGHT

### City Council and Eastern Water Company President, After Long Session Last Evening, Report Much Progress

A definite and final decision on the long discussed question of buying the present water distributing system of the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company will be made tonight by the city council, the Herald learned authoritatively today.

### Colden Lauded For Aiding War Veterans' Bills

Chairman of World War Veterans' Committee Praises Local Representative

Recognition of his loyal support of veterans' legislation was given Congressman Charles J. Colden of this district in a recent communication from Congressman J. E. Rankin, chairman of the committee on world war veterans' legislation. In speaking of the part Congressman Colden played in the recent session of Congress, Chairman Rankin stated, "The disabled ex-service men and their dependents owe you a lasting debt of gratitude for your splendid services in their behalf."

Chairman Rankin's letter follows: "Hon. Charles J. Colden, M. C. San Pedro, California. "Dear Colden: "I wanted to see you before Congress adjourned and to thank you personally for your support of veterans' legislation. "I particularly wanted to express my thanks for your support of my Widows and Orphans bill, H. R. 9536, which passed right in the dying hours of Congress, and which President Roosevelt has just signed. It is one of the most meritorious pieces of veterans' legislation ever passed by the American Congress. It will take relief into the desolate homes of 13,900 dependent widows and orphans of World War veterans, a vast majority of whom received their disabilities in the firing line of the Western Front. The disabled ex-service men and their dependents owe you a lasting debt of gratitude for your splendid services in their behalf. "Sincerely your friend, " (Signed) J. E. RANKIN, Chairman, Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation."

In the meantime, the city council indicated its determination to push plans for the ultimate operation of a city-owned water system by adopting an ordinance Tuesday night authorizing the sale of \$200,000 worth of water bonds, which is the issue voted by the taxpayers four years ago. The bonds will bear 5 per cent interest and will be amortized over a period of 25 years, beginning July 1, 1941. The bonds cannot be sold until 30 days from today, when the ordinance becomes effective, and it is expected that at least 10 days additional will be allowed for bond buyers to submit bids.

Qualified by ten years of law practice and 15 years business experience to perform the duties of justice of the peace.

### Final Figures Show High Registration Of Torrance Voters

Final figures for the city of Torrance show that a total of 3793 voters are registered here for the August 28 primaries. The statistics, as compiled and released today by a small army of clerks under the direction of W. M. Kerr, county registrar of voters, show a total of 2035 Democrats and 1576 Republicans for Torrance. The work of compiling the figures for the county has just been finished following the close of registration July 19.

The totals for all parties for this city are as follows: Republican, 1576. Democratic, 2035. Socialist, 17. Prohibition, 9. Communist, 0. Liberty, 0. Commonwealth, 7. Decline to state, 154.

### Justice of Peace Candidate Helps Build 400 Houses Here

Approximately 400 houses have been built in this city by Torrance C. Welch and the three local real estate development companies in which he has held executive positions and substantial interests. Because of this important contribution which Torrance C. Welch has made to the development of this city, civic leaders are strongly supporting his candidacy for justice of the peace in the new Inglewood township, which after January 1 will embrace the present smaller townships of Lomita, Gardena, Redondo Beach, Inglewood and La Rambla.

In the early days of this city's history, Torrance C. Welch was instrumental as an officer of the Torrance Land & Improvement Company in the construction of 100 houses. Dominguez Land Company also built some 200 houses and the Industrial Housing Company erected 50 houses. Mr. Welch held executive positions with all of these firms, and also built 30 houses as a personal investment. Mr. Welch is president of the Torrance Mutual Building & Loan Association, which company has helped finance much home construction in this city.

At a time when this city is faced with an acute housing shortage, it seems particularly appropriate that the people of this community should support for the office of justice of the peace, a man who is so vitally interested in the development of this district. Wise decisions of the justice court retard the development and welfare of the community, and for this reason, civic leaders are rallying to the support of Torrance C. Welch, because they are confident he will do everything within his power to promote the growth of the community, in which he has taken such an active part in building.

Besides being a foremost civic builder, Mr. Welch is also well

### Loophole In Law, Not Hole In The Doughnut, Sought

Not the hole in the doughnut but the loophole in the law, which might permit a vendor to sell his "sinks" without license to local grocers, will be the object of deep research by City Attorney Charles T. Rippey during the next two weeks, according to action taken by the Torrance city council Tuesday night.

A distributor who supplies glazed doughnut needs of Wilmington, Terminal Island and Gardena, appeared before the council to describe his product as not only wholesome, delicious, glazed and good to eat, but also in demand by local grocerymen. City Clerk A. H. Bartlett produced a license ordinance and pointed out that the ingredients didn't matter so much as whether the doughnut was sold without the seller having first taken a \$48 per annum license.

The doughnut vendor remonstrated that the cost of the license fee was greater than his profits, and asked that inasmuch as he was only wholesaling his wares that the license fee be waived. The matter was referred to the city attorney for two weeks study, during which time, the doughnut salesman was told he would not be molested by Torrance police.